



Native Hawaiian Education Council

October 22, 2013

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
330 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hirono,

Mahalo, *thank you*, for the opportunity to submit comments on the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG). CCDBG needs to be reauthorized, since the program is important for both the advancement of education and economic development by providing affordable child care specifically for low and moderate income parents while they work or attend school. The set aside for natives also fulfills the trust relationship that the United States has with its native populations.

We understand that the Senate HELP Committee passed a bipartisan S. 1086 to reauthorize CCDBG. Under the current law definitions are worded specifically to include Native Hawaiians; however, S. 1086 as passed by the HELP Committee accidentally excluded Native Hawaiians in a few instances.

The inclusion of Native Hawaiians recognizes the unique trust relationship between the U.S. and Native Hawaiians. This relationship began with the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, when Congress in 1920 codified into law the special association between the United States and the Native Hawaiians. Further, under the Admissions Act of 1959, which provided for the admission of the State of Hawaii into the Union, the United States ceded to the State of Hawaii title to the public lands formerly held by the U. S. The U.S. required the State of Hawai'i to hold those lands in public trust, and reaffirmed the special relationship between the U. S. and the Native Hawaiians by retaining the legal responsibility to enforce the duty of the State of Hawai'i to use revenues from those lands for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, as defined in section 201(a) of



the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920. And in 1993 the U. S. apologized to Native Hawaiians for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the deprivation of their sovereignty, due to the role of U. S. agents and citizens in the overthrow.

We support the inclusion of Native Hawaiians in this legislation in keeping with a number of previous legislation, including but not limited to: The Older Americans Act of 1965, The Native American Programs Act of 1974, and The American Indian Religious Freedom Act. The inclusion of Native Hawaiians recognizes and reaffirms the political relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people.

Therefore, we support technical corrections to S. 1086 that:

1. Applies a consistent definition to the term "tribal organization" that includes Native Hawaiians;
2. Includes "tribal organizations" in all aspects of S. 1086 where tribes are mentioned; and
3. Names Native Hawaiians as a group that should be included and consulted in state plans, including training requirements.

In addition to the technical corrections, we support the National Indian Child Care Association (NICCA) request to increase to 5% the set aside for native populations. We strongly agree with their position with the further caveat that the Native Hawaiian allocation be adjusted as well. Currently the Code of Federal Regulations allows \$1 million for a grant to a Native Hawaiian Organization and another \$1 million to a private non-profit, serving youth who are Native Americans or Native Hawaiians.

United States Census figures show an increase in the 0-14 year old Native Hawaiian population in the state of Hawai'i of 12%. The increase in that age population in the state was only 2.5% and only 1.6% in the county.

Increase in 0-14 Years Old Population 2000 to 2010

	Increase
Native Hawaiian	12%
State of Hawaii	2.5%
United States	1.6%

Source: Native Hawaiian Data Book 2011 by OHA, Table 1.17 and U.S. Census 2000 and 2010



In addition, the Native Hawaiian families are disproportionately living in poverty, and the statistic gets worse for families with children, especially young children.

Families Living in Poverty in Hawai'i

All Families	7.6%
Native Hawaiian Families	14.1%
All Families with Children under 18	11.3%
Native Hawaiian Families with Children under 18	18.3%
All Families with Children under 5	13.9%
Native Hawaiian Families with Children under 5	22.8%

Source: Native Hawaiian Data Book 2011 by OHA, Table 2.51

We recommend that the Native Hawaiian allocation grow by the same percentage as the overall increase in the tribal reserve.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important bill, since the funding made available through the CCDBGA is necessary to help low- and moderate-income families to move out of poverty through employment and education while their children receive quality care that is safe and supportive. We respectfully urge you to fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to Native people.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



Wendy Roylo Hee
Executive Director

